



H.R. 1124 - To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1124 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) on February 16, 2007. The bill passed the House by a vote of 268 to 100 on May 14, 2007.

The Senate passed H.R. 1124 by a vote of 96 to 0 on September 18, 2007. The Senate included an amendment by Senator Coburn (R-OK) that would limit assistance to students from families earning less than \$1 million per year.

H.R. 1124 is expected to be considered on the House floor on October 9, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1124 extends the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) for an additional 5 years.

**Note: The DCTAG program was originally authorized for 5 years in 2000, and was reauthorized for 2 years in 2004, and is currently set to expire on September 30, 2007. Unlike the version that the House passed in May 2007, this version includes a Senate-passed amendment that prohibits students from families earning more than \$1 million per year from participating in the program.*

BACKGROUND

DCTAG program is administered by the mayor of the District of Columbia and authorizes the federal government to provide tuition scholarships to high school graduates in the District of Columbia. Under the program, District students may attend public colleges or universities in the United States at or near the in-state tuition rate or receive \$2,500 annually to attend certain private colleges within the Washington Metropolitan area or private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Funding under DCTAG is capped at \$10,000 per year for public colleges, with a lifetime cap of \$50,000 total per student. DCTAG serves as a substitute for an expanded university system in the District, which has only one public university, the University of the District of Columbia.

According to [the Education Center of the Government of Washington, D.C.](#):

- The DCTAG Program had 5,408 applicants and 5,038 awards being made for the 2003-2004 school year. This figure compares with 5,052 applicants and 4,483 awards for 2002-2003.
- Over 600 colleges and universities have signed participation agreements for the DCTAG Program. Colleges range from the University of Alaska to the University of Puerto Rico.
- The DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) has increased the amount of grant aid to District residents, from \$20 million in the 2002-2003 school year to almost \$25 million during the current 2003-2004 school year. Nearly 4,300 District residents have used the DCTAG to attend 258 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that if H.R. 1124 were enacted, the necessary appropriations would total \$208 million over the 2008-2012 period. Federal outlays would match this total over the same period. Enacting the bill would have no significant impact on direct spending or revenues.

Staff Contact

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